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From the Reference Desk

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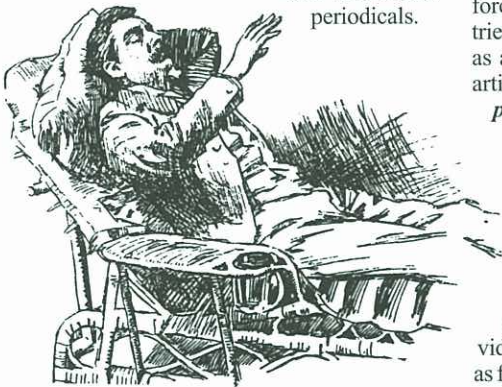
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From the Reference Desk

by **Tom Gilson** (Head, Reference Services, Robert Scott Small Library, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC 29424; Phone: 843-953-8014; Fax: 843-953-8019) <gilson@cofc.edu>

Students of African American history and culture will welcome **Routledge's *Encyclopedia of the Harlem Renaissance*** (2005, 157958389X, \$325). Containing nearly 640 articles from 260 contributors, this two volume set does more than map the development of the Harlem Renaissance. Edited by respected scholars **Cary D. Wintz** and **Paul Finkelman**, it places the artistic and intellectual accomplishments of the movement in social and political context.

While a number of articles focus on Harlem as a center of African American culture, the *Encyclopedia* also points out that there were many outside influences and discusses the movement in other parts of the country. For instance, there are separate articles under the heading Harlem Renaissance that discuss the impact on and relationship of the Harlem Renaissance to different sections and cities of the country like the South, Kansas and the Plains States, Philadelphia, etc. In addition, there are entries under the broad heading Europe and the Harlem Renaissance that focus on the individual cities of London, Paris, Berlin, as well as the Soviet Union. Additional social and political context is provide with articles on **Garveyism**, **Jim Crow**, Black Zionism, the Great Migration, Civil Rights and the Law, Higher Education, Racial Violence, and White Patronage. And, of course, there are numerous biographies of artists, musicians, writers, and publishers, as well as essays on individual plays, films, books and influential periodicals.



The *Encyclopedia of the Harlem Renaissance* offers the reader comprehensive coverage of this seminal era in African American life. The scholarship is impressive with each entry being fact filled and informative. A thematic list of entries, helpful bibliographies, "see also" references, and a map of Harlem, offer added value as does a thorough index. A definite choice for all types of libraries where there is interest in African American culture.

Although there are multivolume encyclopedias on crime, **Sage's *Encyclopedia of Law Enforcement*** (2005, 0761926496, \$250) is unique with its emphasis on the "practice and theory" of policing. While this three volume set has over 550 entries written by more than 300 scholars and practitioners, in many ways this is a production of the **John Jay College of Criminal Justice** at the **City University of New York**. Editor in Chief **Larry E. Sullivan** and his co-editors, along with numerous contributors, are affiliated with the College. In terms of article selection and content, they are to be commended for their efforts.

Rather than providing a straight alphabetical arrangement throughout the three volumes, each volume treats a major theme creating a set comprised of individual volumes. The first volume covers state and local issues, while the second deals with federal concerns and the third covers the international dimensions of law enforcement. All three volumes list selected entries on relevant topics but the third also serves as an international survey, offering numerous articles on individual countries. The *Encyclopedia* subject scope ranges from articles discussing police procedure to those on civilian and private involvement, as well as entries discussing various investigative techniques, policing strategies, safety and security concerns, crime statistics, minority issues and police conduct.

The appendices in the first two volumes are worthy of note. These appendices provide annual reviews of state and local, as well as federal law enforcement developments culled

from the publication *Law Enforcement News* covering 1989-2003. In addition, besides each entry having a bibliography, there are impressive master bibliographies cumulated in each volume. Providing access to the individual articles are both a topical Reader's Guide and a master index. These indexes are very helpful, but they have minor problems. The topical Readers Guide organizes the individual articles by broad subject category but neglects to indicate which volume they can be found in. Normally this would not cause difficulty but given there is no straight alphabetical arrangement throughout the set, it does. Admittedly, that information can be ascertained by checking the list of entries in each volume; however, this is an added, inconvenient step. Another inconvenience is the lack of a page key in the general index telling the reader the pagination of the individual volumes.

These comments aside, *Encyclopedia of Law Enforcement* is a valuable and serious work that will appeal to the layman, as well as students and faculty. Impressive overall, a particular strength is the international coverage. One expects state, local and federal coverage to be a major portion of such a work but the editors wisely give international law enforcement the attention it deserves. In the process, they have produced a well rounded and thorough treatment of an important and growing area of study. Community college libraries supporting law enforcement programs will find this set a natural for their collections as will other academic and larger public libraries with interest in law enforcement issues.

While there are a number of more broadly focused references in religious studies, **Brill's *Dictionary of Gnosis & Western Esotericism*** (2005, 9004141871, \$289) is more narrow in scope, but it is nonetheless important. This two volume work sheds light on the "complexity of the relations between science, natural philosophy, cosmology, and religion in the period from Antiquity through the 17th and even the 18th centuries." And, in doing so, it helps trace the acculturation of pagan traditions like the hermetic, Aristotelian, neoplatonic, and the occult into the Christian culture of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. But more than that, the *Dictionary* also follows these complex relationships through the Enlightenment and up to the present day of scientology and the New Age Movement. One caveat, Judaism and Islam are discussed as influences upon, rather than fully integrated into the concept of Gnosis and Western Esotericism. Editor **Wouter J. Hanegraaff** explains that this was a decision based on the fact that "the disciplines studying Jewish and Islamic "mysticism" have so far developed relatively independently, and have already succeeded in achieving a certain degree of academic recognition."

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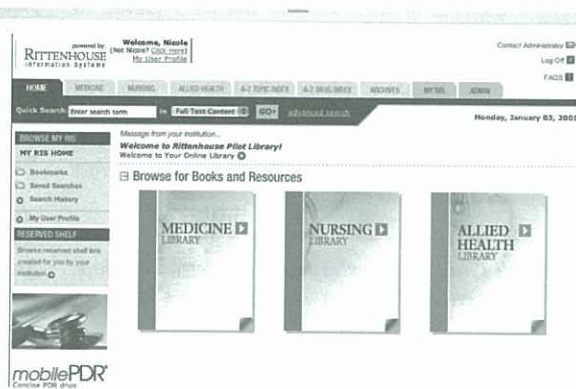
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ATG: Thank you.

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Written by over 180 international scholars, the 400 articles in the *Dictionary of Gnosis & Western Esotericism* are intended for academics, graduate students and the advanced undergraduate. Coverage includes articles on people ranging from **Augustine** to **William Blake** to **Carl Jung**, as well as individual topics including Intermediary Beings, Manichaeism, Freemasonry, Grail Traditions, Amulets, Reincarnation and Neo-Sufism. In addition, there are multipart discussions of major subject areas like Astronomy, Alchemy, Hermetic literature, Magic, Music, Jewish influences, Neoplatonism, Gnosticism and Rosicrucianism. The bibliographies following each entry are noteworthy being rich with quality resources. However, the lack of "see also" references detracts from the usefulness of the *Dictionary*, as does the absence of a general index. While there are indexes by groups and organizations, as well as by people complementing the alphabetical arrangement of articles, a level of specificity is lost with out a general index. Other useful additions for a second edition would be thematic index and a glossary of terms.

Despite these problems, this work is highly impressive. Thorough, comprehensive and steeped in sophisticated scholarship this is a necessary purchase for academic libraries supporting serious religious studies programs.

It has taken 13 years for **Oxford** to update the *Oxford Companion to the Supreme Court of the United States* (2005, 0195176618, \$65). It was worth the wait. Edited by the highly regarded scholar **Kermit L. Hall**, contributors include legal scholars, historians and practicing jurists and attorneys. These brief, but well written articles discuss legal and judicial concepts, landmark cases, leading personalities, constitutional issues and the role of the federal judiciary, among other topics. Recent dramatic cases and developments are also covered in 86 new articles and range from *Bush v. Gore* and the **University of Michigan** Affirmative action cases to the appointments of **Stephen G. Breyer** and **Ruth Bader Ginsburg** to the social issues raised by the Internet and the Web. There are also a number of value added touches. Appendices include a copy of the Constitution and a list of nominations and succession of the Justices, including a chart of appointments by Presidential term, and a chronology of succession. Another appendix includes selected trivia and traditions of the Court. There are two helpful indexes one by case and one by topic. However, although the topical index is thorough and well conceived the use of "see also" references within the index would have been useful. For example, looking in the index under Internet there are page references to where it is mentioned in the text but no "see also" reference to the main entry which is Web and Computer Access.

However, the pluses associated with this book far outweigh any negatives. The role of the Supreme Court and its impact on American society is evident throughout these pages. Informed by recent scholarship but highly readable, the *Oxford Companion to the Supreme Court of the United States* will appeal to all types of reference collections, and with its reasonable price, will find its way into a number of circulation collections, as well as personal bookshelves.

Fitzroy-Dearborn has also published a worthy successor to one of its well received reference titles. Once again produced by the **Museum of Broadcast Communications**, the 2nd edition of the *Encyclopedia of Television* (2004, 1579583946, \$595) adds significantly to the initial set. The 1997 edition was a three volume work containing 1948 pages while the new edition is in four volumes and has 749 more pages of content. According to Editor **Horace Newcomb**, there are nearly 200 new articles along with 486 new photos, as well as revisions of 500 previous articles.

The tone is serious and scholarly without being dull. It portrays television as the important and influential medium that it is, and does so in a straight forward, but engaging way. There are articles that discuss television's impact on, and coverage of, topics ranging from the civil rights movement to natural disasters,

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Book Reviews from page 76

Using **Saricks'** vocabulary of appeal outlined in the third chapter of *Readers' Advisory in the Public Library*, allow me to describe this most-excellent resource:

In terms of pacing, it is densely written yet easy to follow.

The "storyline" is issue-oriented and thought-provoking.

Saricks' style is concise and direct.

In other words, this book is a keeper, no doubt about it. I recommend this title for library school students, public libraries, high school libraries, and even academic librarians whose patrons regularly request RA assistance. 🐰

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and from sexual orientation to the political process. There are also entries on issues like black-listing, censorship, violence, racism and ethics, as well as the impacts of technologies like cable and the computer. In addition, there are numerous articles that discuss popular shows listing their casts, producers, and programming history. And, of course there are articles on the careers and influence of leading actors and actresses, producers, media executives and television journalists.

The emphasis is on U.S. television but British and Canadian T.V. are given ample coverage and there are articles on a wide range of other countries including Turkey, Norway, Belgium, Finland, France, Egypt, Japan, Hungary,

India and Russia among many others. As far as features go, each entry has a list of further readings and "see also" references. The general index is good, but given that volume numbers are not listed, it suffers from a lack of a page key. Unfortunately there is no topical index that would have been helpful in grouping related articles and while each contributor is listed, their institutional associations and other evidence of their qualifications, is not. These are features that the editors might consider for any future version of the *Encyclopedia*.

This edition of the *Encyclopedia of Television* will prove even more useful than its predecessor. Academic libraries supporting popular culture, as well as media and communication programs should find a place on their shelves for this set. Larger public libraries that have found the first edition useful should also give it serious thought. 🌱

America Life in the 19th Century: Unabridged Travel Accounts by Audubon, Olmsted, and Twain

by **Gene Waddell** (College Archivist, College of Charleston) <waddelle@cofc.edu>

John James Audubon is best known as an artist, but he was also a major writer, and his accounts of American life in the Middle West from c. 1810-1835 are astonishingly vivid. **Frederick Law Olmsted** is best known as a landscape architect, but no one travelled more widely and wrote more incisively about the American South in the 1850s. **Mark Twain** is best known as a humorist, but his records of life along the Mississippi River and in the West are classic accounts of two eras of American history and two major areas of the United States.

Audubon, Olmsted, and Twain provided comparable accounts in that all three were similarly brilliant, well informed, and excellent writers. **Audubon** and **Olmsted** wrote like novelists, and **Twain** was as good at non-fiction as fiction. Taken together, their travel accounts provide what is probably the best possible panorama of American Life in the 19th Century. At least four volumes of their best works deserve to be read in chronological order by everyone interested in how Americans became a distinctive people.

Audubon

In search of birds, **Audubon** travelled throughout the eastern half of the United States during the early decades of the 19th Century. From 1827-1838 he published 435 plates in his *Birds of America*, and to accompany his depictions of birds, from 1831-1839 he wrote and published five volumes entitled *Ornithological Biographies of American Birds*. To add interest to his scientific descriptions, he included occasional "delineations of American scenery," and these episodes portray what the life of early settlers was like on the Ohio and

other branches of the Mississippi River.

Audubon's accounts are all the more extraordinary considering that English was not his native language. He came to the United States from France to avoid conscription during the Napoleonic Wars, to make his way in life, and to learn English. While living on the Ohio, he became an American frontiersman and taught himself how to depict birds better than anyone ever had, and he learned to write extremely well. He kept detailed journals of his extensive travels, and they served as the basis for his accounts of birds and other types of animals and of his experiences travelling in the area of the Louisiana Purchase.

Audubon's Delineations were published together for the first time in 1897 along with selections from his surviving journals. A two-volume set edited by his granddaughter **Maria Rebecca Audubon** contains valuable notes by the naturalist **Elliot Coues**.

In 1926 the episodes were first published by themselves in a volume entitled *Delineations of American Scenery* that was edited by his biographer **Francis Hobart Herrick**. Recently published collections of **Audubon's** writings have enhanced his reputation as a writer, but he also deserves to be considered a historian for his important record of a way of life that disappeared during his lifetime. Altogether, **Audubon** published 59 essays (including "My Style of Drawing Birds," which was only in his granddaughter's reprint, and "Merchant of Savannah," which was only in **Herrick's** reprint, but excluding the "Moose Hunt," which as **Audubon** noted later was contributed by another writer). His essays were published in random order, but most are dated, and the ones which are not can, in many cases,



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be assigned approximate dates. In chronological order, they provide an excellent overview of how the Midwest developed and changed.

Olmsted

Before becoming America's first landscape architect, **Olmsted** was a writer, and before be-

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